

Anniversary of the Babes of 1916 Senior Citizens Softball League, formed in 1983. I also stand in honor of the officers of the League: Gil Novak, Nick Gavanditti, Gus Bene and Paul Ristau, and I honor the members of the League who remain forever young, with a clear understanding that one is never too old to step up to the plate.

Over the years, the League has grown from thirty-one players to over one hundred and fifty. Every summer, the teams in the League play at well-attended events in ballparks across the county. Over the past twenty years, teams within the League have won several local and national championships, including their regular participation in the Senior Softball World Series.

The League members' sincere love and enthusiasm for life is clearly reflected in their love for the game—in every calculated pitch, in every outfield catch, in every throw to first, and in every swing of the bat. The players also extend their spirit and energy across our community, as they consistently donate their time to play for charitable and civic events.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor, tribute, and celebration of the past and present leaders of the Babes of 1916 Senior Citizens Softball League, for their twenty years of uplifting our hearts and spirits with their great affection for America's favorite pastime. The players and leaders of the League are the guardians of the most beloved and historic game in American history, and because of them, our seniors have the opportunity to still experience the joy of fielding a ground ball, hitting the winning run, teamwork, and camaraderie. The Babes of 1916 Senior Citizens Softball League have given its youthful ballplayers much more than the love of the game. They've given seniors the chance to play at the ballpark, inspiring cherished moments and creating memories that reach back to childhood—from the early innings of their youth—to the bottom of the ninth, two down, tie score, bases loaded. Batter up.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DON PICKINPAUGH, MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HEALTH CARE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Pickinpaugh's years of service to the Board of Directors of the Washington Township Health Care District. Mr. Pickinpaugh passed away on February 6, 2003 of heart failure at Washington Hospital.

The longest serving member of the hospital's Board of Directors, Mr. Pickinpaugh was first elected to the Board in 1976. He was elected Board president five times during his 27-year tenure, most recently in 2002.

During his time on the Board, Mr. Pickinpaugh provided leadership on many projects, but most notable are his work on the acquisition of Washington West in 1997 and the renovation of the hospital's sixth floor in 2002. This renovation added more than 29 beds to the hospital's capacity.

Mr. Pickinpaugh's interest in health care developed when he served as a Navy chief hos-

pital corpsman. While in the Navy, he supervised the operations of an emergency room at a major Naval hospital and served as a chief laboratory and blood bank technician.

Deeply involved in the community, Mr. Pickinpaugh was a long-time real estate broker in the Fremont area, and was actively involved in the Boy Scouts, Alameda County's Highland Hospital Citizen's Committee, and the Alameda County Tax Assessment Appeals Board. He was also a reading mentor at a Fremont Elementary School.

I send heartfelt sympathies to Don Pickinpaugh's family, and I join his colleagues in mourning the loss of this true community activist.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE WALTER J. KRASNIEWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the day after Christmas 2002, The Honorable Walter J. Krasniewski passed from this life at the age of 73 years. He was surrounded by his family.

Judge Krasniewski served the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Ohio for 32 years, retiring in 1997. The author of more than 500 legal opinions, during his tenure many of his opinions established case law for the Sixth Circuit. At his retirement before a packed courtroom of judges, attorneys, family and friends there to pay him tribute, Judge Krasniewski was recognized as one of the ten longest-serving judges in U.S. history. A dedicated promoter of the noble profession of the law, Judge Krasniewski was mentor to many people he encouraged in the pursuit of a law career.

Walter Krasniewski graduated from Xavier University, then obtained his law degree from the University of Toledo. After a time in private practice, he was employed by the State of Ohio as an assistant attorney. In 1963, he was appointed by Attorney General Robert Kennedy as an assistant U.S. attorney. He began his long career as a bankruptcy court judge in 1965.

Devoted to his family, Judge Krasniewski also paid careful attention to his community. He was involved in many civic activities and fraternal organizations. His thoughtful countenance was as well known to his associates as it was to those who appeared in his courtroom. Always a gentleman, he was also a true statesman.

Walter Krasniewski was a man committed to family, his faith, his profession, and his country. Truly we will miss this man of vision and integrity. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife of 45 years, Mary Lou, his children Linda, Leslie, Laurie, and Lawrence, his brothers John and William, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE 92ND BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President Ronald Reagan on his 92nd Birthday. He is a great man and was a wonderful president. President Reagan stimulated economic growth, curbed inflation, increased employment, and strengthened our national defense. He cut taxes and government expenditures. It was during his term in office as President, the United States enjoyed its longest recorded period of peacetime prosperity without recession or depression. President Reagan sought to increase defense spending, but also wanted to improve relations with the Soviet Union.

Overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of prosperity, and the goal of peace through strength seemed to be within grasp.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor President Reagan and wish him a Happy 92nd Birthday. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing President Reagan more years of good health.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF EDWARD E. KOTECKI, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Edward E. Kotecki, Jr., beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend to many.

As the retired CEO of century-old Kotecki Monuments of Cleveland, a company founded in 1896 by his grandfather, Mr. Kotecki combined his sharp business abilities with his great artistic talents to create exquisite, critically acclaimed shrines and sculptures displayed in churches, religious centers and cemeteries in Cleveland, and around the world.

With a commitment to the highest level of artistry, Mr. Kotecki traveled in search of the finest master sculptors. His search took him to Italy, Poland and Romania, and he personally sponsored each artist during their stay in the United States. Additionally, Mr. Kotecki blazed the trail for a new process of creating sculptures. From his European counterparts, Mr. Kotecki introduced to America a sculpting machine that created three-dimensional sculptures in a fraction of the time it would normally take.

During his tenure, Kotecki Monuments created a symphony of granite along the terrace of the Cleveland Museum of Art; assisted in the polishing of the Hubble Telescope; and worked alongside Cleveland steel mills in fabricating granite skid caps. Moreover, Mr. Kotecki consistently displayed a generous spirit and kind heart. He directed the Cleveland Police Officers Peace Memorial, and had the names of fallen officers inscribed at no charge to families. Additionally, Mr. Kotecki regularly donated labor and materials for the restoration of damaged Cleveland cemetery monuments.